

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT M 00393 290617Z

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PC-10 /020 W
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R 290330Z APR 76

FM AMBASSY PORT MORESBY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1397

INFO: AMCONSUL MELBOURNE 050

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FOR EA/ANP

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: ACTION CONFERENCE IN VIENNA

1. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT ACTION IS ORGANIZING AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN VIENNA JUNE 27 - JULY 1 FOR THE PURPOSE (INTERALIA) OF PROMOTING THE FURTHER EXPANSION AND IMPROVEMENT OF CURRENT VOLUNTEER SERVICE PROGRAMS. WE HAVE BEEN FURTHER INFORMED THAT AS TH RESULT OF DISCUSSIONS HELD IN MELBOURNE BETWEEN AN ACTION REPRESENTATIVE AND THE DIRECTOR OF THE AUSTRALIAN VOLUNTEERS ABROAD (ALLEN MARTIN) A DECISION WAS REACHED THAT THREE PNG REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD BE INVITED TO THE CONFERENCE, AND THAT THEIR TRANSPORTATION COSTS SHOULD BE PAID FOR BY ACTION.

2. A REPRESENTATIVE OF AUSTRALIAN VOLUNTEERS ABROAD IS NOW IN PORT MORESBY TO DISCUSS THE SELECTION OF THE THREE CANDIDATES. HE CALLED ON ME TODAY TO FILL ME IN ON THE MATTER. NEITHER HE NOR ANYONE ELSE HAS DISCUSSED THIS PROJECT WITH THE PNG DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

3. IF ACTION IS PLANNING TO FUND THE TRAVEL OF THREE PAPUA NEW GUINEANS TO AN ACTION-SPONSORED CONFERENCE, I VERY EMPHATICALLY WANT THE MATTER CHanneled THROUGH THIS EMBASSY.

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PAGE 02 PORT M 00393 290617Z

RM I AM OPPOSED TO ANY SUCH FUNDING UNLESS IT HAS THE

APPROVAL OF THE PNG DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. UNLESS WE GO TO DFAT AND DISCUSS THIS PROJECT IN DETAIL, IT WILL APPEAR TO BE AN END RUN AROUND FOREIGN MINISTER KIKI. I DOUBT THAT DFAT KNOWS THAT ACTION RUNS THE PEACE CORPS, AND, GIVEN THE HISTORY OF PREVIOUS APPROACHES ON A PEACE CORPS PROGRAM HERE, ANY FAILURE TO BRIEF DFAT FULLY AND PROMPTLY ON THIS CONFERENCE CAN ONLY LEAD TO UNFORTUNATE MISUNDERSTANDINGS.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT NO FURTHER STEPS BE TAKEN TO FUND THE TRAVEL OF PNG REPS TO THE SUBJECT CONFERENCE UNTIL THIS EMBASSY HAS BEEN FULLY INFORMED AND IN TURN OBTAINS THE APPROVAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

6. FOR MELBOURNE: AVA REP BILL ARMSTRONG SAID ALLEN MARTIN HAD DISCUSSED THIS FUNDING WITH CONGEN MELBOURNE WHICH AGREED TO TRANSMIT MESSAGE TO ACTION WASHINGTON AND TO INFORM THIS EMBASSY BY LETTER. WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED YOUR LETTER. PLEASE TRANSMIT ANY BACKGROUND YOU HAVE BY TELEX.

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